



## Dwelling in the Word

From Church Innovations  
Patrick Keifert and Pat Taylor Ellison

When your group assembles, be sure to set aside at least 20 minutes for this activity. Begin your meeting with the reading of this passage. Then allow some silence to unfold as people let the words have their impact.

Instruct folks in this way:

Find a person in the group you know least well (we call this person a “reasonably friendly-looking stranger”).

Listen to that person as he or she tells you what they heard in the passage. They may mention something they’d never heard before, something odd or something comforting, or something about which they’d like to ask a Bible scholar.

Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of the group what your *partner* has said, not what you yourself said. Some people even take notes to help them focus and remember.

Then, turn folks loose with their partners for 6-10 minutes. Notice *how* they are paying attention. When you draw them back together to report what they have heard, ask for what they have learned from their partners. Depending on how much time you have, you can ask everyone to share or just a few people.

Then wrestle together as a group with what God might be up to in the passage for your group today.

